

REMARKS

Claims 11 through 20 are now pending in this application. In response to the non-final Office Action dated September 7, 2005, claims 1 through 10 have been cancelled and replaced by new claims 11 through 20. Care has been taken to avoid the introduction of new matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application as now amended and allowance thereof are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 10 were rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shinako. Pages 2-5 of the Office Action has applied the reference to the claimed elements. In response, all claims have been replaced. The rejection is now moot.

The present application is directed to a method for generating a certificate, validating the certificate or invalidating the certificate. Information assured by a registration authority is written in a certificate issued by an issuing authority. A signature of the registration authority is then applied to the information assured by the registration authority, thereby clearly indicating that the registration authority assures the information for a user who uses the certificate.

Claim 11, the only independent claim, recites the following method steps:

generating, by the registration authority, a signature certify contents that are to be included in the public key certificate, out of contents registered with the registration authority;

generating, by the registration authority, a certificate issuing request including the contents signed by the registration authority and the registration authority signature;

sending the certificate issuing request from the registration authority to the issuing authority; and

generating, by the issuing authority, the public key certificate including the contents signed by the registration authority, the registration authority signature, issuing contents issued by the issuing authority, and an issuing authority signature signed by the issuing authority to certify the contents signed by the

registration authority, the registration authority signature and issuing contents issued by the issuing authority.

Shinako does not disclose each of the elements of claim 11 reproduced above. Shinako relates to a data communication system for performing a certificate issuance, its invalidation and the like. The system comprises an issuing bureau, a route registration bureau, and a registration bureau, as described at column 3, line 46 to column 4, line 6. Two-way communication is performed between the user and the registration bureau, between the registration bureau and the route registration bureau, and between the route registration bureau and the issuing bureau when the certificate is issued or invalidated, thereby to give and take the data for issuing and invalidating the certificate. Here, the data, including the certificate to be issued, given and taken between entities is signed and encrypted. Note Fig. 19 and the description at column 27, line 4 to column 8, line 55.

In Shinako, since a signature of each of the entities is applied to the data in the data communication between the entities, the signature of the registration bureau is given to the user when the registration bureau transfers an issued certificate to the user. However this signature of the registration bureau is used only during the time of the data communication. The user thus uses the certificate without the signature of the registration bureau after authenticating the signature of the registration bureau. That is, the signature of the registration bureau is used for confirming that the data are not tampered and for confirming the user thereof, but the contents of the certificate is not changed as required by claim 11.

It is submitted, therefore, that claim 11 and its dependent claims 12 through 20 are not met by the Shinako disclosure. Allowance of the application is respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

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extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Z. Robinson".

Gene Z. Robinson
Registration No. 33,351

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 GZR:lnm
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: December 2, 2005

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